

ABSTRACT

AUSTRONESIAN GENEALOGY IN GAYO HIGHLAND: Foucaultian Perspective in the Founding of Aceh Leuser Antara Province

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Austronesia is understood as a culture, which is widely distributed among some nations in Southeast Asia, Oceania, and even Madagascar in Africa. The Austronesian Culture is part of the attributes of some ethnic communities in Indonesia included Gayo ethnic.

This dissertation is aimed at understanding the formation of discourses about the genealogy of the Gayo ethnic community, and the archaeological knowledge is used in relation to local authority. In particular, the goals of this dissertation are to reveal the process of constructing knowledge until it becomes a discourse (*savoir*) and to identify *connainsance* of knowledge being used and the actions being performed by the Gayo community in an effort to found Aceh Leuser Antara (ALA) Province.

This study is qualitative research model that is partly supported by quantitative research as well. The use of such method is not merely to understand the methods and techniques of constructing knowledge on ethnic identity until it becomes the genealogy of Gayo ethnic community, but also to see how the process of change of its ethnic identity. The knowledge on ethnic identity resulted from the research methods is then applied in relation to the formation of Aceh Leuser Antara Province by various strata of the Gayo ethnic community. The community action is a reflection of equivalence with the Michel Foucault's central concept of theoretical study, which is: knowledge, genealogy, and authority (power). Finally, the central study is classified into the archaeological study on knowledge and the genealogy of authority (power). Both studies are then shifted into *savoir* (archaeology), relation between authority (power) and its technology, which is genealogy. Thus the central theoretical study used in this research is *savoir* and *connainsance*.

Results of the research based on the above method shows that there are two aspects that become the basis of Michel Foucault's theory in relation with knowledge, genealogy, and authority (power), namely *Savoir* and *Connainsance*. *Savoir* (archaeology) in Foucault's study is about the process of knowledge construction. In the context of ethnic identity, the knowledge about ethnic identity among the Gayo community was initially formed by folklores, which was then shifted into the knowledge resulted from knowledge, which are ethnography, anthropology, and archaeology. Among the knowledge that becomes discourses, the ancestors of the Gayo ethnic community had explored the Gayo Cultural Area since the prehistoric period, and learned that the Gayo ethnic community is not part of Aceh. In relation to it, the *Connainsance* of ethnic knowledge resulted from the archaeological research is then being socialized in various forms. The *Connainsance* is needed to legitimize the right on their Cultural Area and its management. The knowledge that permeates in the Gayo

ethnic community will help to legitimize their wish to form the Province of Aceh Leuser Antara (ALA).

Key words: *Gayo Ethnic, Austronesia, Savoir, Connainsance, Aceh Leuser Antara Province*

